(iv) Enlarging the scope of Continuing Education to include skill development programme, individual interest programme, rural libraries and removal of residual illiteracy.

(v) State Resource Centres would be strengthened to provide academic and technical resource support to the literacy programmes.

(vi) The activities of Jan Shikshan Sansthans would be extended for creation of self-employment opportunities through vocational training programme.

Free internet access to students/teachers

4412. MISS MABEL REBELLO :
SHRI B. J. PANDA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether UGC has promised free internet access to students and teachers in universities across the country as appeared in the media;

(b) if so, what other gifts UGC will offer to the students and teachers; and

(c) the number of universities and colleges that would be connected to the internet and details of information that can be accessed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), it has been decided to provide internet connectivity to all the eligible universities and colleges in the country recognized under Sections 2(f) and 12-B of the UGC Act, under the UGC-Infonet Scheme. As a result, the students and teachers will get free internet access. UGC-Infonet will allow them to interact with each other allowing easy flow of intra-university information within the country. Under the Scheme, 90% of the total cost of infrastructure is borne by the UGC whereas the remaining 10% is taken care by the respective institution. The entire recurring expenditure is borne by the UGC for a period of 5 years.

Objectives of Operation Black Board

4413. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the main objectives of the Operation Black Board Scheme;

(b) the amount of allocation made to various States for implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme during the last three years;

(c) whether State-wise review has been made on the implementation of the Operation Black Board Programme; and

(d) if so, the achievements made under that scheme in each States during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) The scheme of Operation Blackboard was launched in 1987-88, to provide essential facilities in all primary schools (existing as on September 30, 1986) in the country mainly with the provision of two class rooms, two teachers and teaching learning equipment. The scheme of OB was revised in 1993 to provide for third teacher and three classrooms in Primary schools with enrolment of more than 100 children. The scheme was also extended to Upper Primary Schools.

(b) to (d) Under the scheme of OB, there were no State allocation but funds were released on the basis of proposals received from them. The State-wise details of physical and financial achievements for implementation of Operation Blackboard Scheme during 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 are enclosed. The scheme had an in-built mechanism for continuous review through Quarterly Progress Reports, visits by Senior Officers of the Department to States/UTs and through meetings/conferences. The scheme of Operation Blackboard has been subsumed in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) from 2002-2003.

Statement

Details of Physical and Financial achievements under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Operation Blackborad during 1999-2000 to 2001- 2002

Sl. No.	STATEs/UTs	Schools covered	Teachers post sanctioned		Funds released (Rs. in lakhs)
			Third Teacher	Additional Teacher	From 1999-2000 To 2001-2002
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5729	0	0	15119.60
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	23	0	0	231.48
3.	Assam	0	0	0	4970.07
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0.00
5.	Chattisgarh	0	0	0	0.00

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0.00
7.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0.00
8.	Haryana	0	0	1204	0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0.00
12.	Karnataka	0	0	0	34747.27
13.	Kerala	0	0	0	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	22163	0	21466.66
15.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0.00
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0.00
18.	Mizoram	61	0	106	362.41
19.	Nagaland	58	95	0	29.00
20.	Orissa	12633*	0	0	2324.22
21.	Punjab	1000	0	1000	4149.65
22.	Rajasthan	3962	0	1000	5313.91
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	1828	0	0	4920.49
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	798.60
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	5310	21531.25
27.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	2566.34
28.	West Bengal	0	3750	2353	5697.74
29.	A & N Islands	0	0	0	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0.00
31.	D & N Haveli	0	0	0	0.00
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0.00
33.	Delhi	0	0	0	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	83.18
	TOTAL :	25294	26008	10973	124311.87

NOTE:—* 12633, Primary schools were covered for procurement of Teaching Learning Equipment in Super Cyclon affected 11 District in Orissa.